

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RAYMOND MONTEZELLO,
Plaintiff,
v.
PESCE, et al.,
Defendants.

No. 2:21-cv-00906-DJC-EFB (PC)

ORDER DIRECTING FILING OF PRETRIAL
STATEMENTS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding without counsel in an action brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This action is ready to proceed to trial; a settlement conference between the parties having failed. Accordingly, the parties shall file pretrial statements in accordance with Local Rule 281 and this order. The parties are cautioned that failure to comply with the procedures set forth below may result in the preclusion of any and all witnesses named in his pretrial statement.

At trial, plaintiff must be prepared to introduce evidence to prove each of the alleged facts in support of his claims. Trial evidence generally takes the form of: (a) exhibits; and (b) witness testimony. It is plaintiff's responsibility to produce all of the evidence to prove his case, whether that evidence is in the form of exhibits or witness testimony. If plaintiff wants to call witnesses to testify, he must follow certain procedures to ensure that the witnesses will be at the trial and available to testify.

1 The following procedures apply for calling witnesses:

2 I. Obtaining Attendance of an Incarcerated Witness Who Intends to Testify Voluntarily

3 A witness who is willing to testify without the compulsion of a subpoena, but who is
4 imprisoned or incarcerated, cannot appear to testify without a court order directing the custodian
5 to produce him at the time of trial. The court will issue such an order only upon a showing that
6 the witness has agreed to testify voluntarily and has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

7 Therefore, a party intending to introduce testimony from such a witness must file *with his*
8 *pretrial statement* a motion for an order directing the witness's custodian to produce the witness
9 for trial. The motion must:

10 1. Identify the witness by name, the California Department of Corrections and
11 Rehabilitation number, and the address of the witness;

12 2. Include affidavits showing that the witness intends to testify voluntarily. This
13 intention can be shown as follows:

14 a. The *party* can swear by affidavit that the witness has communicated to him
15 an intention to testify voluntarily. The affidavit must include a statement
16 of when and where the prospective witness informed the party of this
17 willingness; or

18 b. The *witness* can swear by affidavit that he is willing to testify without the
19 compulsion of subpoena.

20 3. Include affidavits showing each witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts. The
21 witness's knowledge can be shown as follows:

22 a. The *party* can swear that he knows the witness saw or heard relevant facts.
23 For example, if something occurred in plaintiff's cell and plaintiff saw that
24 a cell-mate was present and observed the incident, then plaintiff may swear
25 to the cell-mate's ability to testify; or,

26 b. The *witness* can swear to the relevant facts he observed.

27 Any such affidavit must describe the incident, state when it occurred, where it occurred,
28 who was present, and how the witness was in a position to see or to hear what occurred.

1 The court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated witnesses,
2 specifying which prospective witnesses must be brought to court. Subsequently, the court will
3 issue the order necessary to cause the witness' custodian to bring the witness to court.

4 II. Obtaining Attendance of an Incarcerated Witness Who Refuses to Testify Voluntarily

5 If a party seeks to present testimony of an imprisoned or incarcerated witness who does
6 not intend to testify voluntarily, the party must *with his pretrial statement* file a motion for an
7 order directing that witness to appear. Such a motion must comply with the requirements
8 explained above but the movant also must demonstrate that any such witness does not intend to
9 testify voluntarily.

10 III. Obtaining Attendance of an Unincarcerated Witness Who Agrees to Testify Voluntarily

11 A party need not obtain an order to produce an unincarcerated witness who intends to
12 testify voluntarily. However, the party is responsible for ensuring attendance of such a witness.

13 IV. Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who Refuse to Testify Voluntarily

14 To obtain the presence of a witness who is at liberty and who refuses to testify voluntarily,
15 the party who intends to present that witness's testimony, and who proceeds in forma pauperis,
16 must complete and submit to the United States Marshal a subpoena for service upon the witness.
17 Blank subpoena forms may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court. Along with a completed
18 subpoena, the party must also submit a copy of the court's order granting that party in forma
19 pauperis status. Additionally, the party must tender a money order payable to the witness in the
20 amount of the daily witness fee, \$40.00, *plus the witness's travel expenses*. The party must also
21 notify the court that these materials have been submitted to the United States Marshal *not earlier*
22 *than four weeks and not later than two weeks before trial*. A subpoena will not be served by the
23 United States Marshal upon an unincarcerated witness unless the subpoena is accompanied by the
24 materials listed above. No statute authorizes the use of public funds for expenses in civil cases
25 and so even a plaintiff proceeding in forma pauperis must tender any witness fees and travel
26 expenses.

27 ///

28 ///

1 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

2 1. All parties shall serve their expert disclosures within 90 days from the date of this
3 order. The deadline for the completion of all expert discovery is thirty days thereafter.

4 2. Pretrial conference (as described in Local Rule 282) is set in this case for Wednesday,
5 March 26, 2025, before the magistrate judge. The pretrial conference shall be conducted on the
6 file only, without appearance by either party.

7 3. Plaintiff shall file and serve his pretrial statement and any motions necessary to obtain
8 the attendance of incarcerated witnesses at trial on or before March 12, 2025. Defendants shall
9 file their pretrial statement on or before March 19, 2025. The parties are advised that failure to
10 file a pretrial statement may result in the imposition of sanctions, including dismissal of this
11 action.

12 4. The dates for a trial readiness conference and a jury trial before a district judge will be
13 set in the pretrial order.

14
15 Dated: November 13, 2024


EDMUND F. BRENNAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE